

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 18.94 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Executive Committee** was held on Monday, January 6, 2014 in Room 200, Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Present: Chair Tom Lund, Supervisor Erickson, Supervisor Moynihan, Supervisor Buckley, Supervisor Vander Leest, Supervisor Evans, Supervisor Fewell
Also Present: Juliana Ruenzel, John Gossage, Brent Miller, Dan Process, Supervisor Dantine, Supervisor Robinson, Supervisor Van Dyck, Troy Streckenbach, Neil Anderson, Lynn Vanden Langenberg, Cole Runge, other interested parties

I. **Call Meeting to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Lund at 5:30 p.m.

II. **Approve/modify agenda:**

**Motion made by Supervisor Vander Leest, seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to approve.
Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. **Approve/modify Minutes of December 9, 2013.**

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Public – None.

Communications

1. **Communication from Supervisor Robinson re: That a report on the results of the County Board listening sessions be given at the January Executive Committee Meeting and that discussion take place on priorities of further Brown County Action. *Referred from December County Board.***

Robinson passed out documents, copies of which are attached, regarding the listening sessions previously held. What he would like to do at this meeting is go through the strategic planning process and have a discussion based on the results of that process and what should be recommended as priorities going forward. He noted that at the approval of the Executive Committee and the full Board a visioning session was held by members of the WCA where they took in information about the situations in the communities. Following the WCA session, two additional public listening sessions were held; one in Green Bay and one in Wrightstown and comments and results of these listening sessions are contained on the handouts.

Robinson continued that he would like to review the results and have input or feedback and from there the County Executive will be formulating a vision mission and strategic goals and then after that he would suggest that information be reviewed and discussed to give the Board the opportunity to use that dialogue as the 2015 budget is considered. Robinson also suggested that more listening sessions may also be held.

What Robinson would like to do first is review the highlights of the listening sessions and he went over the information contained in the handout. He pointed out the seven main topics and noted that there are a number of areas that overlap.

Supervisor Buckley asked if what Robinson was interested in was having the County Executive put together a group as to how to approach some of these topics. Robinson stated that he did not necessarily know if it was the County Executive's job to take these things on and part of the strategic plan process is to get the different parties involved in a conversation to discuss the priorities and decide what the priorities are. Buckley stated that Robinson has put quite a bit of work into this and he is wondering who is going to champion this to be sure that what Robinson is talking about comes to fruition. Robinson suggested that the Executive Committee review the information provided and present the priorities selected to the County Executive and have him come to the Committee with suggestions. Buckley felt that the full Board would want to give their opinions on this and he would suggest that we see how it would work with the County Executive's office and have them talk about what their vision is and then reach out to County Board members for additional work. Robinson agreed with Buckley but felt that the ball was in the Board's court to say to the County Executive that there are specific areas of emphasis they would like to move forward on and see what they have to say.

Supervisor Erickson commented that he was at two of the visioning sessions and that the first one had about 10 attendees and the second session had about 20 attendees. He felt that having representation by 30 people in a county of 260,000 was not sufficient for an accurate sampling of views and opinions to say what direction the county is going. In reviewing the documents provided by Robinson, he noted that many of the things contained in the reports are already being done. He felt that it would be a waste of staff time to duplicate efforts in these areas. He did feel that there were certain things that should be looked at further as there were some good ideas but he felt what should probably be done would be to send these ideas to the appropriate departments and let them answer back as to what they are already doing to avoid duplicating efforts. Erickson continued that he felt Buckley was on the right track and he was hopeful that he would amend his motion to split the list up and have the items forwarded to the appropriate departments for them to send back what efforts may already be taking place with regard to these items. Erickson also thanked Robinson for the work he has done on this project.

Supervisor Evans also thanked Robinson for bringing this forward. He opined that it should be the legislative body bringing this forward. He does not like throwing things back at the Executive and he felt that if the Board is going to shape the County, there are 26 Board members elected from throughout the County to do so. Evans also felt it was the legislative branch's job to shape the County. He felt that to give this back to the Executive Branch and Administration was an absolutely terrible way to handle this. It should be handled by the people elected by the people. The one item that Evans does like is that this is broken down into different areas; however, he did find several of the suggestions to be a little far-fetched.

Supervisor Fewell arrived at 5:50 p.m.

Evans concluded by stating that sending this off to the abyss of bureaucracy would cause it to die. If the Committee and the Board is committed to making changes in the County by 2033, he believes this should be a legislative function and he would support that.

Supervisor Moynihan concurred with Evans and also agreed with Erickson that this should be broken out to each standing committee. He felt that this should remain in the legislative side of things.

Buckley stated that the reason he felt this should be sent back to the County Executive is because the departments are already working on a lot of these items and he did not see a need to spend time hashing this out when a lot of this stuff is being worked on already. He did not see the need to create more unnecessary work with the end result of having this received and placed on file. At least the County Executive could come back with quick bullet points of what is being discussed and if it comes down to topics being left that need to be taken care of, the legislative body can then address those areas.

Robinson stated that it is up to the Committee as to what is decided to be done with this. The reason for the whole strategic planning process is to get the County Board out of the minutia of the day to day issues and take a bigger picture and larger view of where we want the County to go.

Motion by Supervisor Buckley, seconded by Supervisor Vander Leest to refer to County Executive to come back with his thoughts.

Motion amended by Supervisor Buckley, seconded by Supervisor Vander Leest to review with department heads and come back and analyze it and send back to Executive Committee.

Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 1.

Ayes: Erickson, Lund, Buckley, Fewell, Vander Leest, Moynihan.

Nay: Evans.

Vacant Budgeted Positions (Request to Fill)

- 2. Administration – Senior Accountant - Vacated 1/6/14.**
- 3. Airport – Operations Supervisor - Vacated 1/20/14.**
- 4. Health – Public Health Nurse - Vacated 1/2/14.**
- 5. Human Services – Psychiatrist - Vacated 3/1/14.**
- 6. Planning & Land Services – Planner I – Vacated 12/31/13.**
- 7. Public Works FM – Housekeeper – Vacated 12/13/13.**
- 8. Zoo & Park Management – Assistant Park Director – Vacated 12/31/13.**

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to suspend the rules and take Items 2 – 8 together. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 1.

Ayes: Vander Leest, Erickson, Lund, Moynihan, Fewell, Evans.

Nay: Buckley.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to approve Items 2 – 8. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED 6 – 1.

Ayes: Vander Leest, Erickson, Lund, Moynihan, Fewell, Evans.

Nay: Buckley.

Legal Bills

9. Review and Possible Action on Legal Bills to be paid.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to approve the legal bills. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reports

10. County Executive Report.

County Executive Troy Streckenbach extended an invitation to meet with individual supervisors to discuss what was discussed earlier in the meeting by Supervisor Robinson. He felt that the last budget does represent a collaborative effort between the administration and the County Board as far as looking at initiatives that are important to the County. He does agree with a lot of the things that Supervisor Robinson brought up as far as the long term viewpoint as to how to move the County forward for long term success and specifically looking at the challenges we will face in the future. It is inevitable that we will have large costs in a number of areas that will have to be addressed. He felt that long term sustainability of the County is prudent in the long run and on a minor micro level he hopes Board members will entertain meeting with him so that we can come up with another appropriate budget for 2015.

Vander Leest wished to make a general comment to the Committee and the Executive with regard to the golf course. He stated that the Ed and Rec Committee has been working on ways to get the golf course into a stronger financial situation. There have been discussions about getting more of a reserve going and there have also been discussions with regard to selling some excess land that the golf course has. He noted that currently the golf course is in deficit in the general fund and he is working to get a reserve going for future improvements and needs.

Streckenbach responded that the County needs to come up with creative ways to find better revenue sources and support for all of our institutions. Thinking outside the box will be necessary and he indicated that all ideas are welcome.

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Internal Auditor Report.

a. Board of Supervisors Budget Status Financial Report for November, 2013.

Internal Auditor Dan Process commented that operations and maintenance is over budget but noted that that is because NACo dues for 2014 were incorrectly posted to 2013. Administration has been notified of this so that an adjustment can be made.

Motion made by Supervisor Vander Leest, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Quarterly Status Update.

Process advised the Committee that the missing funds at the UW Extension was a nominal amount and some of the deficiencies that were identified contributed to the loss and those things have been corrected. He will be issuing a report on this matter shortly.

Process also reported that with regard to the external audit, there were some concerns with the number of findings that were pointed out. Process has met with Tim Schmitt and he is making progress and there will be a planned meeting with Schenck later this month to see where they sit with findings and recommendations.

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Vander Leest to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Closed Session

12. Update, discussion on classification of Correction officers.

A discussion was held with regard to the need for a closed session on this. Lund stated that all information has been provided to the Committee previously and it was up to the Committee as to if a closed session was warranted.

Buckley stated that this Item is listed as update, discussion on classification of Correction officers. Lund stated that any action would be made in open session. Moynihan asked Corporation Counsel Juliana Ruenzel if she felt there was a need for closed session and she stated that she is not aware of any new information that the Supervisors have not already received.

Motion made by Supervisor Buckley, seconded by Supervisor Vander Leest to suspend the rules and take Items 12 and 13 together. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Buckley to take Items 12 and 13 in open session. No vote taken.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to receive and place on file Items 12 and 13. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. Update, discussion and possible action of Correction officers and bargaining.

See action at Item 12 above.

Although shown in the proper order here, Items 15 and 16 were taken following this item.

Motion made by Supervisor Buckley, seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to suspend the rules and take Items 15 and 16 together at this time. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

14. Update, discussion and possible action on bargaining with Sheriff Department Supervisor Labor Union.

Notice is hereby given that the governmental body will adjourn into a closed session during the meeting on the above numbers 12 thru 14, as authorized pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(e) and (1)(g) of the Wisconsin Statutes, and Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 111.70 as allowed for purposes of negotiating and collective bargaining, which authorizes the governmental body to convene in closed session for the purpose of:

- a) Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. Wis. Stat §19.85 (1)(e)
- b) Conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is likely to become involved. Wis. Stat § 19.85 (1)(g)

Motion made by Supervisor Erickson, seconded by Supervisor Moynihan to enter into closed session. Roll Call Vote Taken: Vander Leest, Erickson, Evans, Fewell, Lund, Buckley, Moynihan. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Supervisor Moynihan, seconded by Supervisor Vander Leest to return to open session. Roll Call Vote Taken: Vander Leest, Erickson, Evans, Fewell, Lund, Moynihan; Excused: Buckley. MOTION CARRIED

Item 17 was taken at this time.

Reconvene in Open Session for Possible Action:

15. Update, discussion on classification of Correction officers and bargaining.

Evans wants to understand if the correction officers are in protective status or not. Both Director of Administration Brent Miller and County Executive Troy Streckenbach stated that they are in fact in protective status. Evans stated that it was his understanding that the County Board voted to put the corrections officers in protective status in 2001. Evans questioned if the Committee took Items 15 and 16 tonight and voted to receive and place on file would the protective status of the corrections officers be maintained? Lund stated that the County Board will have to make the decision at the next Board meeting whether they want to continue to move forward on the protective status or if they want to go forward with what they were given that the Administration does not believe they should be in protective status. Evans understood this and stated that procedurally if this is received and placed on file it would be the same as being said that we uphold the status and Lund stated it would be similar to saying it needs to go to the County Board for final decision. Evans then said we could take a recommendation as to maintaining the protective status or not. Evans stated that he does not like voting on something that has previously been voted on. He would be happy to hear other viewpoints on this but indicated that he would support receiving and placing on file but the Committee is being charged with making a recommendation to the County Board and Evans stated that his recommendation would be to maintain the corrections officers status as protective.

Buckley stated that to receive and place this on file would not be doing our jobs as the Executive Committee but would rather be sidetracking this and not addressing the issue. He felt that the Board must be very careful on how this topic is approached and he felt that there are a lot of doors that are opened when we look at this. He continued that he has spoken with a number of people on this subject and he does not think that the jailers should be protective status. He stated that he believes that the Sheriff and the County Executive are currently working on getting legislation to carve out the jailers into protective status and Buckley felt that that is the route we should follow as this would make it clear under the State as to how they are classified rather than putting together our own interpretation as to how the jailers are classified.

Lund stated that it would be inherent on the Board that this motion is supported for the State and not left to die. Buckley stated we could vote on this but it could potentially get vetoed and then it would die.

Sheriff Gossage addressed the Committee and stated that he has a conference call scheduled for the coming Wednesday with Representative Bies's office. The legislation deals directly with Chapter 40.06 which is the classification for protective occupations. The Sheriffs throughout the State of Wisconsin realize the value of having corrections officers that retire at an early age so there are not people in their 60s and 70s working with younger inmates and getting injured. What they want to carve out is the specific protective status category of civilian county jailers that would have protective status with regard to the early retirement. This is very similar to what the State corrections officers have at this time.

Vander Leest asked how this would break out if this is passed in the next month or two. Sheriff Gossage stated it would not be passed in the next month or two but there was an urgency to get the legislation out there. Vander Leest stated this will need to happen very quickly as the session will be up in March. Vander Leest asked if there were provisions made for older officers to fit the job and Lund responded that there are not special provisions made. The job is the job and there is no light duty for older people; they have to be able to handle all responsibilities of the job.

Evans stated that he will not support this although it was interesting. To send this to the legislature as a high priority, they are going to be done in mid-March which is roughly three months away. Representative Bies is looking for all sorts of ways to save money in the corrections area. He felt that this is acquiescing the legislative power that the Board has. He is all for working with the Executive but he does not agree with this. He thinks that the County Board should say that we support the correction officers being in a protective status and that should be taken to the State and Bies told that we want our corrections officers to be in protective status. He does not believe in taking away the protective status and then having the State backfill it back in. He is sticking up for what he feels is correct and he feels that the people that are doing the corrections officers job should fall under protective status. He is not going to take this away from them and then say to the State that we voted to take it away but maybe the State could give it back to them. He felt this was absolutely inappropriate. He felt this would go absolutely nowhere. He stated that there could be a point in time where the corrections officers have protective status but not be represented by a union. He felt that rescinding it and then asking the State to give it back is sending a mixed message and he is not for this.

Buckley stated that he can appreciate Evans comments however, without really knowing all the details involved in trying to make a decision, everything seems to be about the legislation doing

it. If the legislation is doing everything we do not need the rest of the people and we can micromanage from here. It is our job to tax the others to do their jobs and follow up and make sure that the accountability is there to the Executive branch. Buckley's concern is that this will die because if it does get voted down or does get vetoed, it is dead. Buckley stated that the appropriate place for this to be taken care of is with the State.

Vander Leest wished to reiterate the urgency with this with the State and he felt that work on this must start tomorrow in order to get this done before the session ends. Lund stated that he would add that we should have a resolution at the Board meeting on January 15 so there is something to vote on.

Moynihan stated that Act 10 started with the state and what the Sheriff described is also going to start with the State. Lund felt that you need a resolution to send to the State that you support carving out for the corrections officers. A vote from the Committee or Board without a resolution is nothing.

Streckenbach felt that a resolution would be very proper and having one passed at the January Board meeting would be great.

Moynihan felt if the resolution was the way to go it would have to be under Committee of the Whole and Lund agreed and stated that a resolution would give more power than just a vote.

Fewell stated that the resolution should be to support the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Association in their efforts.

Motion made by Supervisor Buckley, seconded by Supervisor Moynihan for the County Executive to continue on the path he chose for the rescission of protective status and work on a separate resolution to encourage legislation to get the state statute changed for the jailers.

Supervisor Evans asked for separation of the motion. Chair Lund agreed and suggested they vote on each part of the motion separately:

Motion made by Supervisor Buckley, seconded by Supervisor Moynihan for the County Executive to continue on the path he chose for the rescission of protective status.

MOTION CARRIED 5 -1 with 1 abstention

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Vander Leest, Erickson, Lund, Moynihan, Buckley.

Nay: Evans.

Abstain: Fewell.

The second part of the motion was voted on including the following friendly amendments made by Chair Lund:

Motion to work on a separate resolution to encourage legislation to get the State Statute changed for the jailers and to bring the resolution forward at the January County Board meeting under "Committee of the Whole" and that the resolution be backed by the Sheriff and the Sheriff's Association and the County Board approving status change for correction officers. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY WITH FRIENDLY AMENDMENTS

At this time Item 14 was taken.

- 16. Update, Discussion and possible action of Correction officers and bargaining.**

See action at Item 15 above.

- 17. Update, discussion and possible action on bargaining with Sheriff Department Supervisor Labor Union.**

Motion made by Supervisor Vander Leest, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to draft a resolution for the Sheriff Department Supervisor Labor Union and present it at the February Executive Committee meeting. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

- 18. Such other matters as authorized by law. *None***

- 19. Adjourn.**

Motion made by Supervisor Vander Leest, seconded by Supervisor Erickson to adjourn at 6:53 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary

Highlights of County Board Visioning Session

One June 12, 2013, members of the Brown County Board of Supervisors met to participate in a "Visioning Session" facilitated by staff of the Wisconsin Counties Association. During this time, the Supervisors in attendance discussed what they would like the future direction of County government to be.

MAIN THEMES

- Providing of services
- Economic development
- Citizen involvement
- Transportation
- Education
- County as unifier – consolidation of services
- How we treat each other is important, but many of our challenges are self-imposed

What does the County do well?

- **Providing of services** (Sheriff, solid waste, taking care of people in need, fish habitat restoration, child support fraud investigation, efficient provision of services)
- **Transportation** (air, rail, harbor, moving people in and out)
- **Recreational opportunities** (parks, trails, library system, good for kids)

Mission of County

- **Providing services** (serve citizens; provide necessary, economical services; public health; emergency management; human services; veterans'; consolidate smaller gov't units; public safety; protect natural resources)
- **Citizen involvement** (public forum for discussion, voice for our constituents)
- **Economic development** (growth, infrastructure)

Values

- **How we treat each other** (integrity, fairness, respect, equality, cooperation, responsible, responsive, friendly, empowering, transparent, open-minded)

Vision

- **Quality of life** (safe, sustainable future, future generations proud to live in, create an environment where graduates want to stay, home-town values with big-town attitude)
- **Education** (encourage education, big-town attitude towards education)

- **Economic development** (foster diversified economy, support small businesses and entrepreneurs)
- **Providing services** (flexible organization to meet people's needs, do more with less)

What do you want Brown County to look like in 2033?

- **Economic development** (lots of good, quality job opportunities; high tech jobs; medical; green technology; using the river for economic development)
- **Consolidate services** (cooperation among government agencies to maximize resources, consolidation of government units and services, countywide policing, see library consolidation as model for other areas)
- **Education** (99% high school graduation rate; embrace different educational opportunities – home, charter and parochial schools)
- **Environment** (clean air and water, swimmable bay)
- **Diversity** (Take better advantage of diversity; better assimilation and less separation of diversity)
- **Transportation** (Access all major areas of the state without a car; increase bike paths)
- **Positive public perception** (appreciation of services taxes provide, public happy with the service they get with the tax dollar, people feel good about paying taxes and that government is efficient)

Challenges

- **Self-imposed** (The way we get things done, the way we conduct business, resistance to change, pride – too set in ways, nothing new, lack of risk-takers and risk-taking)
- **External views** (expectations – people expect more from available funds, lack of confidence in government, need stronger public private sector partnerships, need stronger private sector drivers, inconsistent priorities amongst communities – big cities like Green Bay have different needs than smaller communities – not all moving in the same direction)

What are we not doing now that we should be?

- **Serving as a Unifier** (bringing people together, more public/private partnerships, engage business community, reform tax code so every community is not competing against each other, communities are expanding into other programs or services that should be provided by the county)

Compilation of Public Comments from Strategic Planning Process

Compilation of comments during Public Listening Sessions held on September 4th and 12th and comments shared through on-line form on County website.

Each bullet point represents one individual's comments in that particular topic. An individual may have spoken on more than one topic.

These comments represent 15 individuals, although more people than that attended the listening sessions, with some of them choosing not to speak.

Communication

- We need a brochure to talk about all the wonderful things going on in the county.
- Nothing new on the website since 2011.
- Communication from the County Board is abysmal.
- Never hear what the County does. The opening comments to the listening sessions by the County Board Chair were the most comprehensive orientation to the County yet. There needs to be better communication with the public on what the County actually does and is doing.

Community

- Need to respond to growing diversity.
- Need to deal with demographic changes in the County – help people become useful citizens, as handouts don't cut it.
- Pay attention to the demographics of the County.
- There are many opportunities to be a more desirable community for young professionals that we are not tapping into. Start with being more welcoming to diversity, including LGBT people and families.

County Employees

- To keep the best and brightest employees, we need to pay them.
- There needs to be a pay-scale plan, as the compression issues hitting management are a serious problem. It is embarrassing when talking to potential new management hires. The long term consequences will be mediocrity. Running government like a business seems to be the mantra these days, but what business would have the model of uncertain compensation for the management, for 11 years?

- If we're trying to save money, why is the county paying for employee parking and why are more project management positions being created (but then not later filled when they're vacant)?

County Services

- Great help for municipalities from Planning Dept., Public Works, Sheriff; with good cooperation between the various municipalities in County.
- Improve efficiencies – spend what you have but no more. Reduce the debt.
- Look for ways to partner with other counties in northeast Wisconsin as way to pool resources.

Economic Development

- Work with local businesses and communities to develop things along the Fox River and the Fox River Trail – developing various launch sites for canoes or kayaks, including handicap-accessible sites. Take advantage of the developing National Water Trail.

Environment

- Sustainability needs to be the practice; zero waste efforts are important. Also, need to deal with dead zone in the bay.
- Important to focus on air quality and zero waste. Also, need to have bee-friendly practices on county property.
- County vehicles need to use natural gas rather than gasoline.
- We need to care for our environment and sustain our resources.

Finances

- The County can't sustain not raising taxes, as we can't cut our way to that goal. We need a financial management plan, utilizing a third-party advisor, which can test the financial validity of decisions such as capital improvements, taxing plans, etc.
- An equitable share of the budget and our resources should reflect the percentages of populations we have in our county in terms of race, ability, income level, education level, etc.

Human Services

- Services for the homeless are needed.

Libraries

- Moving central library would be unjustifiable; it's more cost-effective to keep it where it is and expand it.
- County needs a modern library system to be successful

- Library system is phenomenal; don't let it become less than great.

Public Health

- Concerned about health and tobacco use, including disposal of cigarette butts along streets – dangerous to public health from run-off. Some communities have fines up to \$500 for cigarette butt littering.
- Need to deal with problems of wind turbines – the issue with low-frequency noise and infrasound is being swept under the carpet. The County has 8 turbines that are the tallest in the state.

Sales Tax

- The County needs to diversify its revenue stream by continuing the .5% sales tax and put that money towards a capital improvement account (road construction and maintenance). This will free up other money to pay down the debt.
- Educate the public on this. Be smart and think long-term. Don't be afraid to change your mind.
- Would favor .5% sales tax continuing if it went for capital improvements, but not for private business. Be consistent with the voters and don't break faith with them. Get the residents to understand how it will be used for capital improvements.
- *(Quite a bit of discussion ensued about the County Sales Tax at one of the listening sessions.)*

Strategic Planning and Listening Session process

- Need to continue to have listening sessions to hear what citizens have to say.
- Appreciation for what elected officials do, so thanks for listening to the public.
- Good to have these listening sessions and the strategic planning process. We need a 5000-foot view, and this strategic plan needs to be the bedrock of future plans and budgets. More data needs to be solicited by a survey done through a certified survey center, such as the one at St. Norbert College.
- A governing body that offers discussion and inclusion of community ideas was reflected in the offering of the listening sessions, as well as cooperative governing body that seeks to understand its environment, both of which are good.
- Board provides no leadership. It is unwelcoming of comments from the public and prioritizes the petty.

Transportation

- Poor infrastructure in the county, particularly for public transportation. It's difficult to get to other communities, like Milwaukee and Madison.
- Public transportation is needed.

Miscellaneous

- The County needs to be more involved with legislative action in the state. Local control is being taken away by the state with high capacity wells, cell towers, wind turbines, etc.
- We need to work together and think as entrepreneurs. Use the 20/20 visioning document and the LIFE Study as resources. Five key areas:
 - Education
 - Health care
 - Economic development
 - Self-sufficiency
 - Overcoming divisions.

Brown County by 2030 can be creative, collaborative, and courageous.

- Make efficiency the #1 priority. To do this, consult with the county employees who are working directly on projects (and not just management), as they are the ones who will have the best sense of how to make things more efficient. To have the County say, "We have provided you with the services you required of us. We have tried to do it as correctly and as efficiently as we were able to."